

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of designing a system that includes a computer application model-hosted on a hosting environment-model, the method comprising:

(a) modeling the-a particular hosting environment including such that the hosting environment-model includes configurable

(1) configuring hosting environment settings for the particular hosting environment, and

(2) identifying one or more device-specific constraints placed that are imposed by the hosting environment settings on the-prospective applications to be hosted on the particular hosting environment-model;

(b) modeling the-a particular application including such that the application-model includes

(1) configuring application settings for the particular application, and  
(2) identifying constraints placed-imposed by the application settings on the-a prospective hosting environment-model of the particular application; and

(c) validating the design of the system by

(1) comparing the hosting environment settings model to the constraints imposed by the application settings, and

(2) comparing the application-model settings to the device-specific constraints imposed by the hosting environment settings.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the constraints imposed by the application settings or the hosting environment settings include configuration parameters.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein (c) comprises:

analyzing the application settings to determine whether the application settings satisfy the constraints imposed by the hosting environment settings constraints.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein (c) comprises:  
~~analyzing the hosting environment settings to determine whether the hosting environment settings satisfy the constraints imposed by the application settings. constraints.~~
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the particular hosting environment comprises a distributed computing system.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the particular hosting environment comprises a plurality of server computers.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the particular hosting environment comprises a logical computer workstation.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including after (c):
  - (d) displaying on a display device a list of constraint conditions that are not satisfied.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further including:
  - (e) displaying a link in the list of constraint conditions that are not satisfied that links a condition in the list to a diagram that illustrates the condition
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including after (c):  
displaying on a display device an error icon when a constraint is not satisfied.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein (a) comprises creating a system definition model document.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein (b) comprises creating a system definition model document.

13. (Currently Amended) A design tool for validating application and hosting environment settings and constraints, the design tool comprising:

a module for modeling a particular application by

setting application settings for the particular application, and

identifying application-constraints imposed by the application settings on a prospective hosting environment of the particular in an application model;

a module for modeling a particular hosting environment by

setting configurable hosting environment settings for the particular hosting environment, and

identifying hosting environment device-specific constraints in a that are imposed by the hosting environment settings on prospective applications to be hosted on the particular hosting environment model; and

a validation module that performs at least one of the following:

determining whether determines when at least some of the application settings do not satisfy corresponding the device-specific constraints imposed by the hosting environment settings, and

determining whether the hosting environment settings satisfy the constraints imposed by the application settings.

14. (Currently Amended) The design tool of claim 13, wherein the validation module determines instances where the when application settings do not satisfy the device-specific constraints imposed by the hosting environment constraints settings.

15. (Currently Amended) The design tool of claim 13, wherein the validation module determines instances where the when hosting environment settings do not satisfy the constraints imposed by the application constraints settings.

16. (Currently Amended) The design tool of claim 13, wherein the particular hosting environment comprises a distributed computing system.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying configuration errors for an application bound to a hosting environment, the method comprising:

- (a) displaying application elements in a first region of a user interface screen;
- (b) displaying hosting environment elements in a second region of the user interface screen, at least one of the hosting environment elements representing a device in the hosting environment;
- (c) in response to a command from a user, moving elements from the first region to locations in the second region to bind application elements to hosting environment elements;
- (d) validating the design by analyzing application and hosting environment settings to determine whether the settings satisfy hosting environment and application constraints, respectively; and
- (e) displaying validation errors in a third region of the user interface screen.

18. (Currently Amended) At least one computer-readable medium containing computer-executable instructions for performing the steps comprising:

- (a) receiving data regarding a particular application, which data that includes application settings and constraints placed imposed by the application settings on a prospective hosting environment of the particular application;
- (b) receiving data regarding a particular hosting environment data that includes hosting environment settings and device-specific constraints placed imposed by the hosting environment settings on the prospective applications to be hosted on the particular hosting environment; and
- (c) validating a design of the system by comparing the settings to the constraints.